THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the import of fresh garlic during the last three years and also the names of the exporting countries are contained in the publication "Monthly Statistics of Foreign trade of India, Volume-ll (Imports)-Annual Number" published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the Parliament library. With effect from 17.1.2003, garlic has been removed from the restricted list of imports. As such, it is freely importable by any party.

(c) Along with the removal of garlic from the restricted list of imports, the import tariff on the item has been increased from 35% to 100%.

Sub standard Imported Food and Consumer Items

2247. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several industry associations have complained about the influx of sub standard imported food and consumer items;

(b) whether it is a fact that the domestic products have to pass through a series of quality checks as per BIS standards and the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act but the imported products enter the country without any quality checks;

(c) if so, the details of the sub standard products and their country of origin; and

(d) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir. Mandatory Standard Specifications are based on the principle of 'National Treatment' according to which the same quality standards are imposed both on domestic and imported goods.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.